

5

10

ABSTRACT

A padding material, primarily intended for use in contact sports gear and medial equipment, is comprised of a plurality of beads having average diameters between about 1 mm and about 6 mm that are substantially coated with an adhesive material that is cured from a liquid state while in initial contact with said beads and used in quantities such that void spaces constitute at least about 10 percent by volume of the total volume of the padding material. Upon curing, said adhesive preferably has hardness levels ranging from about Shore A 20 to about Shore A 95.